



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**

US\$ 45.71

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

150 YEARS PRISON?



Bernard Madoff arrives at Manhattan federal court for a hearing to discuss potential conflicts of interest between him and his lawyer, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, in New York.
See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

KO NHL FIGHTING



Chicago Blackhawks' Ben Eager (55) fights with Colorado Avalanche's Cody McCormick during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 8, 2009, in Chicago.
See Sports Today

The Guardian Holdings Group Visit Prime-Minister Nelson Oduber

ORANJESTAD - On Monday afternoon Prime-Minister Nelson Oduber was visited by the Guardians Holdings Group delegation of Fatum, consisting of CEO Mr. Jeff Mack, Mr. Peter Ganteaume, Mr. Steven Martina and Mr. Diego Frankel. It should be duly noted that this company has already invested substantial amounts of monetary funds in our Island and the economy of Aruba.

On this occasion Prime-Minister Oduber, thanked them for their immense trust and support in our Island and made a humble request for them to continue doing so, even though the current financial crisis world-wide is a noticeably affecting everyone. □



MVCI's Sales & Marketing recognizes its top achievers

Aruba's guests discover vacation ownership benefits



Sapphire Marketing: Angele Geerman, Zuraila Wever, Edwin Maduro, Anne Marie de Windt, Maroushka Sanchez, Elly Rustveld, Ursly Silberie, Yria dos Santos, Premal Chohan, Fernando Chumpitazi, Gisela de Sa, Keila Alcantera, Camille Simms, Carlos Ramos.

PALM BEACH - The combination of an outstanding vacation ownership property found at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club, as well as Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, paired

with a dynamic Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) Sales & Marketing team continue to have its affect in transforming today's guests to Aruba into long-term,

Aruba vacation owners. The true stars among an already illustrious team of marketing and sales professionals were recently recognized with MVCI's highest honors.

The top honor of the Award of Excellence 2008 went to Charles di Perri, whose ability to act as a mentor to his colleagues, as well as to connect with guests and future vacation club owners, proved second to none. It is no small surprise then that Charles de Perri was also recognized as MVCI Aruba's Top Producer in Sales.

Continued on Page 3

**NEW McMAX
Max size
Max flavor**



Remember the name: Suikertuin!

Exciting plans for a historic mansion in the Wilhelminastraat



ORANJESTAD - Lots of friends showed up for a champagne toast at a wonderful mansion in the Wilhelminastraat last Sunday

afternoon. The house, where formerly La Fondue Restaurant was located, sports a new name: Suikertuin. The place will be run

by Willeke Volgers and Gaston Verlaan, who are more than a little bit excited about their new venture.

Suikertuin will have to undergo major surgery before it will be ready to receive its first guests, though. The restaurant will be open for breakfast and lunch and for private functions like weddings and other parties. Expected opening date of Suikertuin: June 1st.

The great, historic mansion at 64 Wilhelminastraat is getting a facelift, tummy tuck, liposuction and a lot more beautifying attention in the coming three months. Its new

colors will be mustard and creamy white. Gaston: "Expect seating in front of the restaurant as well, so guests can do some traffic-spotting and be noticed at the same time." The name Suikertuin (Sugar Garden) refers to the great mansion-cum-supermarket on sister island Curaçao as well as to the cute backyard of the place.

Although the restaurant is now totally stripped and empty, everyone can see its amazing potential: the tropical, lush and shady garden where undoubtedly lots of romances will be initiated and the covered terrace in the back. The various

rooms inside are cool and intriguing, with foot-thick walls that have kept lots of secrets throughout decades. The house was built sometime during the 1800's, but specifics about its past are still missing.

As glasses with lovely Nicolas Feuillatte Brut champagne were raised, courtesy of Arion Wine Company, good wishes for a fantastically successful venture for Willeke and Gaston could be overheard. We don't doubt that: both have a wealth of experience behind them, on as well as off the island. We shall keep you posted of Susikertuin's progress! □



Celebrating 25 years as Aruba's place to play!

Wild Cash Wednesday!

Win your share of \$300 in CASH PRIZES!

Earn one FREE entry ticket for every 50 points earned today from 10am to 10pm.

Cash Prize raffles from 10:30pm to 11:30pm!

TOMORROW Don't miss Bonus Bingo Thursday!
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Table games open at 6pm with \$3.00 Blackjack daily!

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Cleo's
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with Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm



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Maggy's
Marriott's Ocean Club

**Personalized Service and
Great Value on
all your Favorite Brands**

The Beauty Emporium since 1955



Sapphire Sales: Francis Groeneveldt, Hendrik van Lennep, Moises Uruena, Nayda Lopez, Moises Vallejo, Charles Di Perri

MVCI

Continued from Front Page

Among his numerous achievements, Charles de Perri also hit the mark in garnering the highest rating in Portfolio Sales for 2008. Fellow stand-outs in the Sales Department honored with the distinction of "Sapphire" for being among the top producers in sales included Moises Uruena, Moises Vallejo, Hendrik van Lennep, Nayda Lopez, and Francis Groeneveldt. Annual awards were also bestowed in the Marketing Department with MVCI Aruba's Top Producer in Marketing going to Gisela da Sa.

Her fellow "Sapphire" top-achievers in marketing include Elly Rustveld, Camille Simms, Yria dos Santos, Zuraila Wever, Premal Chohan, Annie de Windt, Ursly Silberie, Lisa Thomas, Marouska Sanchez, Fernando Chumpitazi, Angele Geerman and Carlos Ramos

In having a positive impact on both guests and owners, the 'best of the best' in individual areas were also given well-deserved recognition. For her consistency in quality service, Thanya Croes was named as the Best in Customer Scores for 2008. Forsimilarhighgrades, Gary Barnes received accolades for Best Worksheet for 2008. Another high-achiever is Francis Groeneveldt who was recognized for Most Self-Generated Volume. Rated by their fellow associates, associates who shined in 2008 included Mariska Bernabela who was named Best Sales Admin. Assistant.

Winner for the Best Attitude (in Sales) was Albert Croes. Rising stars in their respective department include Angele Geerman who was voted Rookie of the Year in Marketing and Yeni Conde as Rookie of the Year in Sales. Other outstanding marketing associates include Edmond

Adonis who won for his 'Commitment to Excellence' and Carlos Ramos for his 'Winning Attitude'.

The Front Desk Star for the Year went to Sharon Ferguson. And in keeping track of all the Sales & Marketing's numerous activities, the Accounting Award of Excellence went to a deserving Rita Dirksz. The satisfaction of Aruba's guests, who have found an additional facet to love about the island in becoming vacation owners, often begins with an introduction provided by one of MVCI's talented, on-island Sales & Marketing associates. Aruba su team ta keda un di e departamentonan mas mihor evalua di henter e cadena di Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI). Pa mas informacion tocante MVCI por yama Tel: 586-2641 of bishitando e website: www.vacationclub.com of www.marriottsarubasurfclub.com. □



Award of Excellence winner Charles di Perri flanked by Director of Sales Noanni Cham, Project Director Bettina Gonzalez and Ron Moser (RDOS)

WEDNESDAYS SPECIAL!



 **1/2 carafe
OF HOUSE WINE
WITH 2 MAIN COURSES!**

**...FRESH FISH CAUGHT DAILY
BY THE OWNER HIMSELF.**

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Seafood & Steaks
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Driftwood Restaurant
Authentic Aruban Seafood



Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.
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* Not valid with any other promotion.



\$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

Sundown Special, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

*Kids Eat Free *Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

Monday Seafood Sampler

Tuesday Bravo Italiano

Wednesday An island favorite - BBQ night

Thursday Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

Friday International Seafood Festival

Saturday Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

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Robert & Gisele Rossi honored at the Divi Links Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Links Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years.

Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded

the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Links Resort they call their home away from home. Robert & Gisele Rossi were honored as an Distinguished visitor after visiting Aruba for 15 years.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Robert & Gisele and also Gilda at the Divi Links Resort

412 sought free legal aid in 2008

PHILIPSBURG--A total of 412 persons tapped the free legal aid services offered by the Central Government Department of Labour in 2008.

Legal aid is available to persons at the low end of the income bracket and who are legally registered in St. Maarten. Persons who earn above the minimum wage can also benefit from legal aid if they have "substantial financial obligations," such as mortgages, says Central Government Department Head Kenneth Lopes. However, these persons would have to provide proof of their financial obligation.

Of the 412 persons who sought legal aid last year, 119 (28.9 per cent) were for labour related issues; 80 (19.4 per cent) for civil matters; 35 (8.5 per cent) for divorce and 178 (43.2 per

cent) for criminal cases.

While there is a specific pool of attorneys who handle legal aid cases in Curaçao, all law offices in St. Maarten cooperate with the labour department for legal aid cases.

Lopes said he had approached all the law firms in St. Maarten some time ago to cooperate in the programme. The department covers all legal fees for successful applicants.

Legal aid requests are processed within about two to three working days, providing that all documents have been provided and all forms filled in, Lopes said. Among the documents needed when making a legal aid request are the applicant's pay slip, an evaluation from the Inspectorate of Taxes and proof of registration from the Census Office.

Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



Build your dream home on Aruba!

Last 2 lots available in prestigious "Westpunt"
Lot #1 - 404m2 property land **\$59,000,-**
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Both are located at the end of a Cul de Sac with all brand new homes and paved streets.
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HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

Celebrating Women's Day



We, women, will keep on celebrating our day, everyday ! Not only on March 8th. That's why this dedication to

all women, where ever you are !! Not necessarily with a big party, but in our hearts, in our

minds and in our souls ! Especially to all my tourists lady-friends from the Aruba Beach Club and Casa del Mar. Enjoy the Happy Hours with the best music-man, singer and entertainer, my dear friend Amado Rosina. Enjoy your "Home away from Home" !!



WE CELEBRATE US !!

We celebrate us, on this beautiful day
We, women of all kinds and ways...
We do so much with so much love
As professionals or as house wives
Blessed with inspiration from above
And maybe you express yourself like me
Me, being a Poet with my feelings expressed so free !
In my poem, today, I would like to state
A positive and powerful message from a beautiful women doctor friend
She said : A woman must believe in herself, and love herself
And with this, she can help another without losing her peace of mind
And I agree to all this and more....we are one of a kind !!
We are the heart of the family,
No matter how difficult it might sometimes be....
And when one of my sister in law shared her message with me
About us, women, which I am so glad to be...
She said : Us women need not to depend always on somebody else,
But we need to be able to be firm, strong, and on our own two feet to stand
I added some more, and said....It is the love of God in our heart...
It's in the way we are, and listen, the way we help and give....
The beauty of it all shows in the way we live
And because I am still filled and blessed with a lot of inspiration
My dedication to you, today, right now, will be :
"Be happy and blessed you are a great woman, just like me !!!
Author : Ruthy" Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen
Aruba, March 8th, 2009

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Only for \$ 23.50 taxes not included

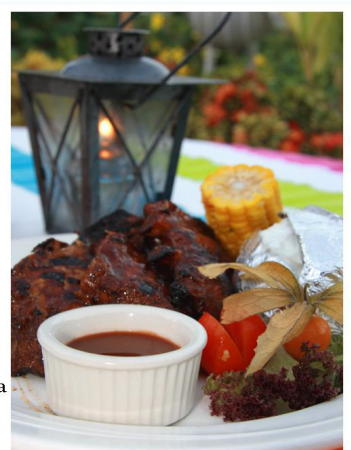
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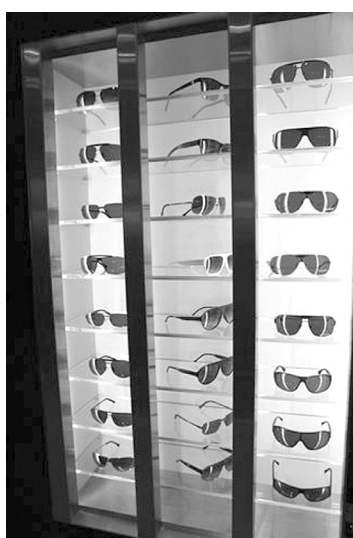


Ermenegildo Zegna now open at the Renaissance Mall



Oranjestad -- Ermenegildo Zegna is the world's leader in luxury men's clothing, for over a century. The Italian company enjoyed humble beginnings as fine fabric manufacturers and over decades delivered the exquisite materials required to make famed Armani, Hermes & Escada clothing lines. In 1980 however, the Ermenegildo Zegna group transformed itself into a design house and opened its first single-brand boutique in Paris, then Milan followed in 1985. By 2007 the stylish Ermenegildo Zegna Group had 525 stores featuring two design concepts Ermenegildo Zegna & Zegna Sport. Two hundred fifty three of the company's stores are directly operated, by the mother organization.

Most recently the company also achieved collaborations with the Salvatore Ferragamo Group, aimed at producing the Ermenegildo Zegna brand of quality footwear and leather goods, in addition to an ambitious Chinese venture with SharMoon, a Wenzhou company, set to make high quality men's suits and jackets for the Chinese market. Famed fragrances followed with Essenza Di Zegna in 2003, Z Zegna in 2005 and ZegnaIntenso, distributed by YSL Beauté, in 2007. The ever-growing company is synonymous with great style and exquisite taste, also making stylish sunglasses, underwear, socks, nightwear, and collaborating with legendary American designer



Tom Ford on the creation of a luxury line of men's clothes. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group was founded in 1910 in Trivero, a small town in the Biella Alps by patriarch Ermenegildo Zegna. The young entrepreneur set out to create high quality fabrics for men's clothing and his strategy was focused on the selection of the best raw materials from his own Italian market. Innovation in product and in the production process combined with smart promotion of the brand resulted in immediate great success. The founder's sons, Angelo Zegna, who is the Honorary Chairman of the Group, and Aldo Zegna, who passed away in 2000, took over the



management of the company from their father in the '60s. They lead the company into the ready-to-wear market with a line of men's clothing aimed at the top end of the market, then gradually ventured into knitwear, accessories and sportswear. Founding father Ermenegildo Zegna is also known for his dedication to the environment, planting over 500.000 trees along a barren mountain range and beginning the construction work on a panoramic road, which now bears his name. Following the example set by their patriarch the family's latest generations created the Oasi Zegna in 1993, an oasis of recreation in nature. Today, the Ermenegildo Zegna group has a yearly output of 2,3 million meter of fabric, 600.000 sleeve units, 1,6 million sportswear items, 1,750

million textile accessories and it employs more than 7.000 staffers worldwide and has achieved a turnover of 843,4 million Euro in 2007, 90% of which is derived from clothing and accessories, 10% from textiles and over 88% of all sales are exported. The Group is still a "family business" and is managed by the fourth generation of the family: Paolo as Chairman, Ermenegildo as CEO, Anna, Benedetta, Laura and Renata Zegna. In Aruba the famed store is located at the entrance to the Renaissance Mall, with 102 M2 of opulence and elegance, featuring Couture, Satoria, Z Zegna, Zegna Sport, in addition to fragrances and accessories. The store is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. www.zegna.com □



Attention

For your convenience W.E.B. Aruba N.V. advises their clients to pay their water bill at one of the government offices at Savaneta, Santa Cruz, San Nicolas, Paradera or Noord.

If you did not receive the water bill please call 525-4200 and we will fax or email the bill or we can inform you how much needs to be paid in order to pay at one of the government offices.

In order to pay at one of the government offices, you must know the account number (number di percela) of the bill and the amount that needs to be paid.



CMB
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 Banco di Caribe

Number di refer
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Number di percela
 25963-00

MARIA ZERE ALKINERE
 PONTON 1356



Stable rating for bonds AAA NV affirmed

ORANJESTAD - Moody's Investor Services, one of the world's leading credit rating agencies, has affirmed the Baa3 rating of the bonds issued by the Aruba Airport Authority in 1997 and 1999. This rating is determined in two steps. First, the risk of the revenue bonds loan itself is reviewed and reflected in a rating the Baseline Credit Assessment. Then Moody's reviews if an adjustment is required because it is likely that the Government will give extraordinary support if AAA cannot repay the loan by itself. Compared to the previous rating review in 2007, the Baseline Credit Assessment improved one notch from Ba1 to Baa3. Moody's mentions passenger growth and consistently improving financial results during the past years as the main reasons for this improved rating. Management's successful efforts to diversify the company's revenues and the well-controlled cost structure are also highlighted. The upward adjustment for possible government support, which was given in the previous rating, was not given this time. Despite the current worldwide economic crisis, Moody's has maintained a 'stable outlook' for the rating, meaning that it does not see significant threats of downward adjustment of the rating. Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director of AAA NV is pleased with the rating: "If many other companies get downgraded during this time of recession, a stable rating is almost a step forward! Especially the 'stable outlook' given by Moody's is a sign that the efforts of management and employees of the past years to make AAA a healthy and strong company have paid off". □



Exhibition "Reflections" By Toyota Art Gallery 168

ORANJESTAD - Tonight you are invited to a group exhibition with Gerda van Leeuwen's students of her watercolor water color workshops. For long time already, there have been Toyota Art Gallery 168 workshops / painting classes organized. One of the teachers of these workshops is the artist Gerda van Leeuwen who works exclusively with watercolor. The painting / workshops are organized every 3 months and consist of special classes for children aged 8 to 16 years and a separate group for adults.

During these lessons, students are taught various techniques specifically for watercolor painting. There are also issues such as perspective, composition and use of shadow area. In this period of lessons Toyota Art Gallery 168 has showcased the great achievements of the students like to highlight through this organized exhibition. The composite exhibition of the work of Gerda van Leeuwen in combination with the work of its students is a colorful and interesting exhibition

which would become worthwhile to see. The opening reception will take place on Wednesday, March 03, 2009 from 19.00 to 21.00 in Toyota Art Gallery 168. The gallery is located at L.G. Smith Blvd. 114. Oranjestad. (Behind the CMB Blvd branch / old Toyota parts dept.) The normal hours of the gallery are Tuesday through Saturday from 14.00 to 18.00. The exhibition will be March 28 to visit and you are welcome. □



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Monday through Saturday.

This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be
purchased at any other vendor than the Box Office of the Renaissance Aruba
Resort & Casino.

Kool Runnings is the new kid on the block at the South Beach Mall



Repeat guests from Boston give Kool Runnings the thumbs up for the best Jerk food on Aruba.

Saturday thru Thursday enjoy a free bottle wine or two non-alcoholic beverages with the purchase of two dinner entrees. Not valid with any other promotional offer. Kool Runnings is already famous for the best cream of pumpkin soup on the island. Adventurous eaters now have the opportunity to sample true real Caribbean cuisine with the best Jerk chicken pork, fish beef, shrimps, oxtails, curried goat, ackee & salt fish, stewed whole snapper, escovitch snapper, steamed snappers and

many more. Early bird free salad or soup with entrée. (not valid with any other promotional offer) Lunch special while it last lunch for \$ 10.00 only selected items .

Situated at the south beach mall with spacious free parking lot just for you.
Tel # 586 4692 or 586 5375 or
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The trendiest coffees on Aruba

Segafredo at South Beach Centre

PALM BEACH – Recently Segafredo very quietly opened its doors in the new South Beach Mall, right across from the High Rise Hotels. They have been a raving succes from day one, not a surprise to anyone as Segafredo is one of the world's trendiest and recognized coffee brands.

Segafredo is opened from 6AM for the early starters until midnight. You'll find the Grand Opening Specials below, they are made just for you! They will serve you the best Segafredo coffees during the morning to get you going, during lunch you will find fresh panini sandwiches, pizza, lasagna and salads. Night time at Segafredo's promises special coffees, martini's, longdrinks and of course beer on one of the trendiest locations on the island. General Manager Maarten Alberts has trained his staff to utter perfection on how to make the best coffees, and it shows. Served by the most courteous staff on the island, the morning espressos and cappuchinos are put in front of you with every attention to detail. We invite you to start your day in the best way possible; at Segafredo.



Segafredo
ESPRESSO
PALM BEACH

Grand Opening Specials

BUY ANY BREAKFAST GET ONE FREE

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY

BUY ANY SPECIAL COFFEE GET ONE FREE

6pm - 8pm

Located at the South Beach Mall in Palm Beach #55 | Open Daily from 6am to 10pm | Tel: 743-8897 - 586-7483

Bloody Oyster Cocktails that will blow your mind...

Have you every seen a mermaid?

Come to Moby Dick's

For a great and unique lunch experience, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. This is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea connoisseurs who take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery. Moby Dick's weekly lunch specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place.

A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.

Open Every Day 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.



So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

mobydicksaruba@gmail.com

**For More information
and Reservations
Call: 586 8333**



ARUBA

Hard Rock Cafe is “over the top” for fun, food and reviving great memories

The official opening of **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** in January had all the glitz and glamour of any Hollywood carpet event, and the newest addition to this world famous brand of casual eateries is an entertaining journey through musical history, as well as offering a guaranteed great meal at a very reasonable price. Music is so much a part of our lives, often interwoven with the landmark moments; the first kiss, a marriage proposal, the first dance as man and wife.

How many times have you heard or said, “Honey, they are playing our song!” Hard Rock has all those great

songs and videos in their play list, enveloping patrons in a world of music that brings back those special memories of moments that changed one's life. Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton in 1971 and located right next door to Eric Clapton's recording studio in London, the first **Hard Rock Cafe** became an instant hit with those that loved a good “old-fashioned American hamburger” and started a legend, resulting in one of the largest and most successful leisure franchises existing today. Hard Rock's remarkable music memorabilia collection began with a red fender given

Aruba's Flavour



the founders by Eric Clapton, to mark his special table where he came to dine on a daily basis. Not to be outdone, other great names such as The Who followed his example; eventually leading to the assortment of music memorabilia that includes anything from a lock of hair to a five-ton psychedelic bus. In **Aruba** you find no buses, but a fascinating collection of instruments, posters, wild and wicked costumes and

other miscellaneous items, many of them autographed by the legendary performers they commemorate. Dozens of bits of memorabilia and high definition plasma screens create the music world ambiance that defines **Hard Rock Cafe**, as well as their diverse menu of fresh fajitas, authentic western barbecue, and of course, their famous certified Angus beef burgers, huge and juicy, the way a burger was meant to be.

Owners of the **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** are particularly proud of the double bar that serves both inside and out; a stunning canopied terrace allows them to take full advantage of Aruba's famous tropical breezes and agreeable climate.

Opening night featured The Wailers, the famous band that made their name with Bob Marley, direct from Jamaica. The appearance of such noted groups and live rock tributes are a trademark of Hard Rock Cafés around the world.

Hard Rock Cafe Aruba is located in the South Beach Mall across from the Radisson Resort and open seven days a week, from 10:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and until 2:00 AM on the weekends. It is comforting to know there is a great place to go for late night munching and fun times within an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach Resorts offering not only quality food and beverage at reasonable prices, but a musical trip down Memory Lane!



LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks
Highest limits in Aruba
Sports Book opens at 12:30 pm

POKER ROOM
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
7 p.m.
TEXAS HOLD-EM
\$4-\$8 LIMIT
BUY-IN FOR \$30 RECEIVE \$60 IN CHIPS
MUST PLAY TWO (2) HOURS

Monday \$25 buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed
Tuesday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed
Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,000 Guaranteed
Thursday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed
Friday \$50 Buy-in \$4,000 Guaranteed
Saturday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Sunday Free Roll No Entry Fee \$2,000 (at 5pm)
(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

Only Casino in Aruba
Where dealer stands on Soft 17

Red Sail Sports Aruba for all sail cruises

Sail with Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset along Aruba's scenic Coastline



PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

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Angela Munzenhofer shares secret recipes of Buccaneer Restaurant

A grand cooking experience at Central Market, Texas



ARUBA/ DALLAS- A cooking class experience for Texas travel agents took place on March 4 & 5, 2009 at 2 different locations of the grand Central Market. Central Market is not your local grocery store but a grand experience in shopping from every vegetable, fruit, herb and a 52 foot showcase of fresh seafood and meat & poultry. Angela Munzenhofer of the Buccaneer Restaurant had an experience of a lifetime at Central Market with great assistants to help make a cooking class one to remember. The assistants had everything fresh cut and measured and ready for class to begin. The travel agents were enjoying an evening of culinary experience with Angela and each had their own recipe card to bring home including interesting facts and brochures about Aruba.

Angela prepared seafood pasta filled with scallops, shrimp, and clams in a tomato garlic based sauce alongside with fresh pan grouper topped with her famous bruschetta and ended with a chocolate mousse.

The evening consisted of fun enjoyable cooking lessons which each agent was delighted especially to eat the delicious meal accompanied by wine. Kim Riddle of AHATA gave the agents a perfect session about Aruba and explained everything about the Caribbean island which many of the agents already had visited.

"The agents were a pleasure to be beside while cooking the entrees and getting to know each one was an honor" replied Angela, "Central Market and their staff was a memorable experience especially walking through the store and seeing the enormous amount of groceries. I wanted to bring that store to Aruba, Wow what an experience".

Many thanks to the assistants at Central Market and AHATA for making this experience one to cherish. It was an honor giving lessons to those who truly enjoyed the passion of cooking.

For all you pasta lovers Buccaneer Restaurant introduces 8 new pasta dishes to the menu. □

Photos by Bella Aruba Photography



Beach Tennis lovers: Unite during ranking tournament on Sunday!



EAGLE BEACH - All the Beach Tennis lovers of Aruba are expected to show up next to Costa Linda's Beach Resort when the third Beach Tennis Ranking Tournament is held this Sunday, March 15. Everyone is welcome to play, newcomers and old hands at the game, because fun is what Beach Tennis is all about. Rent a paddle or bring your own and play in a category that will bring out the best in you.

Registration can be done via the website or phone (5926421 / 5837074 www.arubabeachtennis.com). Sponsors of the event are Alno Kitchen, Amstel Bright, Aruba Aloe and InterAssure. Juniors start at 10 am (they can just show up to play); adults need to register beforehand and their matches start at noon.

Come join us! ☐



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Cervical cancer vaccine arrives in TT



At the launch of the new vaccine were, from left, GSK's Caribbean Marketing Manager, Karen Bankay; Gynaecologist Dr Anthony Pottinger; GSK Commercial Director, Deborah Herbert; and HPV Manager, Dr Felipe Lorenzato.

THE CERVICAL cancer vaccine Cervarix is now available in Trinidad and Tobago and is being distributed locally by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). This vaccine offers strong, broad and long-lasting sustained protection against human papillomavirus types 16 and 18, which is responsible for more than 70 percent of all cervical cancers in women. The drug was officially launched locally on Friday at the Hyatt Regency in Port-of-Spain.

Data obtained from clinical studies conducted among women vaccinated with Cervarix has shown 100 percent protection against the development of persistent infection and pre-cancerous lesions attributable to HPV types 16 and 18, included in the vaccine. Additionally, protection beyond these types has been proven, particularly against HPV 45 and 31, which, together with HPV 16 and HPV 18 account for about 80 percent of all cervical cancers both in Latin America and all over the world.

According to the World Health Organisation (2004), in Trinidad and Tobago, cervical cancer is the second cause of death among women, with an incidence of 27.1 per 100,000 women, and a mortality of 10.7 per 100,000 women.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is an important cause of morbidity and mortality.

Every year, approximately 500 thousand women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 270 thousand die from this disease. It represents the second cause of death by cancer among women throughout the world, holding the top position in several developing countries. Latin America does not escape this situation; as a matter of fact, close to 86,532 new cases are diagnosed every year, with about 38,436 women dying from it.

Cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions also cause a significant emotional and physical impact on women, thus, together with screening and a healthy lifestyle, vaccination is expected to significantly reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer and enhance the quality of life of all vaccinated women.

"The availability of Cervarix in Trinidad and Tobago represents a step forward in the prevention against cervical cancer in this country," said Eduardo Ortega, Vice President and Medical Director of GlaxoSmithKline's Biologicals Area for Latin America and the Caribbean.

"By providing a strong, broad and sustained immune response, Cervarix will help reduce the burden of cervical cancer, providing benefits to thousands of women from different generations and their families."

Thus, it is very important to highlight that this protection against HPV is already available through private practice for women aged ten years and older in TT, so you can ask your physician for it.

Countries all over the world have shown their interest in attaining a reduction of the incidence of this deadly disease, although so far, Panama is the only Latin American country that has taken the forefront by including this vaccine in its expanded immunisation programme, in order to prevent cervical cancer in every girl between the ages of ten and 11 years.

The development of this vaccine is partially due to the discovery by German scientist Harald zur Hausen, who found the link between oncogenic HPV and cervical cancer, thus becoming one of the winners of the Nobel Prize in medicine 2008.

To date, approximately 100 types of HPV have been identified and of these, approximately 15 virus types have been linked to the development of cervical cancer. HPVs 16 and 18 are responsible for approximately 70 percent of cervical cancers together with HPV 45 and HPV 31 represent about 80 percent of cervical cancers worldwide and in Latin America.

It is a known that, throughout their sexually active life, up to 80 percent of all women are at risk of becoming infected with some type of cancer-causing HPV; however, most of these infections will resolve spontaneously. Whenever this does not occur and the infection persists, lesions may appear that can progress to become pre-cancerous or even turn into cervical cancer.

GSK has specifically designed Cervarix to provide the best protection possible against cervical cancer to women who are potentially at risk from the age of ten years, by covering the two most



Dr Felipe Lorenzato speaking on the new HPV vaccine at the launch.

frequent types of oncogenic HPV. In order to confer strong, broad and sustained protection, the vaccine was especially formulated with GSK's proprietary AS04 adjuvant system.

To date, GSK's cervical vaccine has been approved in more than 90 countries around the world, including the 27 member states of the European Union, Australia, Singapore and Philippines. In Latin America it has been authorised in Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia,

Peru, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Surinam, Curacao, Aruba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala and now Trinidad and Tobago. And it was submitted to 115 countries.

Also in September 2007, GSK submitted Cervarix for pre-qualification by the World Health Organisation that will enable developing countries and GAVI countries to purchase it through the United Nations, for inclusion in their national vaccinations programmes. □

Caribbean Tourism Organization postpones sustainable tourism conference until 2010

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados: The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has announced the postponement of its annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development, otherwise referred to as the Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC). The current global situation has made it difficult for countries and delegates to give their full attention to the conference, therefore, after much consideration, CTO has taken the decision to defer the conference, said Hugh Riley, the regional tourism development agency's Interim Secretary General. However, while the event is not being staged this year, a significant amount of interest has already been shown by some CTO Member Countries in hosting the event in 2010, added Riley. "The event in 2010 will continue with the focus on how member states can design and implement sustainable tourism policies and practices into their regional and international initiatives, with an emphasis on sustainable tourism issues of special interest to the host country," the Interim Secretary General said. "We recognize that the development of the tourism sector in the Caribbean has to continue on a sustainable path, and we will continue to address pertinent sustainable tourism issues throughout the year in the programmes and projects under our sustainable tourism division, for the benefit of our member countries. We expect the event in 2010 to return stronger than ever," he added. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

Around the mid-1900s the expression “time-out” came from a number of sports in which it signifies an interruption in play where the officials stop the clock, for purposes of rest, making a substitution, or consultation. The concept quickly caught on in different areas as in discipline techniques for children, helping women cope, and in the workplace. Perhaps we can extend the areas where time out can be used.

Time out is a very effective discipline technique and will work with children as young as 18-24 months old. By using this method of discipline you are giving your child time out from positive reinforcement, which includes any parental reaction such as yelling or other discipline after they misbehave. Prepare a time out chair, which can be a chair in any room of the house, a space on the floor, the child’s bed, or any place where he is isolated from interaction with others. Use a kitchen timer to count down your child’s punishment time, which is usually one minute per year of age.

Time Out for Women has become an institution in several countries where women of all ages meet regularly for encouragement, worship, prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Activities range from guest organized events to crafts and conversation. It is hoped by the sponsors that during these retreats days filled with messages of inspiration

from respected authors and music artists, women will learn, will laugh, and, hopefully, their spirits and sights will be lifted so they feel rejuvenated for the days ahead.

Time out for the workplace is taking on a sense of urgency in several areas. There is a growing sense that there needs to be a time out called for executives that are over-connected to their work through all the gadgets of mobile technology. Called the “wireless leash syndrome” we realize that mobile phones and handheld devices have made companies more productive; but new findings reveal that those who stay connected to work around the clock can hurt their well-being and their family lives. No kidding.

Some companies are forcing their employees to take several days vacation in order to improve their profit margin. Many employees must take the time without pay because they do not have enough vacation hours accrued. Additionally, it has been estimated that managers spend at least 25 percent of their time resolving workplace conflicts – causing lowered office performance. In the resolution of a conflict managers are resorting to making employees “take time out” to lower charged emotions that may interfere with arriving at a productive resolution.

In our grass-roots clinic we see many of our patients take “time out” when they come in for an acupuncture session. Acupuncture, an ancient Chinese

Time Out

therapy that is becoming more widespread in the West uses various procedures, such as heat and pressure but mainly fine needles, to stimulate points on the body to relieve pain by rebalancing the flow of energy.

Acupuncture is very safe when practiced by trained acupuncturists. In the new millennia the number of acupuncturists in the United States was estimated about 11,000 practitioners without Western medical degrees and 3,000 acupuncturists with medical degrees, by 2005 the figures doubled and is expected to quadruple by 2015. This trend is stimulated by people in the West realizing that acupuncture works.

Acupuncture, effective in treating chronic pain, back pain and headache, is very effective for relieving dental pain and we use it to lower the pain, pressure and swelling after oral surgery. Many clinical trials have found that acupuncture is effective for treating vomiting after chemotherapy or surgery, and nausea associated with pregnancy.

While many of our patients come in for their twenty minute acupuncture session to relieve pain; since we make them turn their cell phones to the ‘silent’ mode, many relax. After their sessions many realize that the treatment has gone beyond pain reduction and they feel a balance and

harmony in their body, mind and spirit. In acupuncture treatment I select specific acupoints based on my diagnosed root cause. Needles inserted into these acupoints cause movement of energy. This energy movement causes blood and energy to flow smoothly within the body, breaking down blockages, and causing symptoms to mitigate or disappear and the body to begin the healing of the root cause.

This is a simplistic view of how acupuncture work but, never the less, accurate. Acupuncture is also very powerful in building and maintaining a strong immune system, and releasing blockages that cause emotional problems. There are many people in developed countries that could benefit greatly from acupuncture and would find an acupuncture session a great “time out”.

Get The Point! Commiserating with others facing similar demands and catching your physical and spiritual breath by taking “time out” is a great way to regain your balance. Many people feeling “stressed out” think the origin of their problems are found in work, children, and relationship issues and are surprised when I diagnose an energy imbalance in their kidneys or liver. Receiving acupuncture treatments for their organ imbalance puts their other stresses in perspective and a realization that the problems are more easily managed when



balance is restored. Are you ready for a healthy “time out”?

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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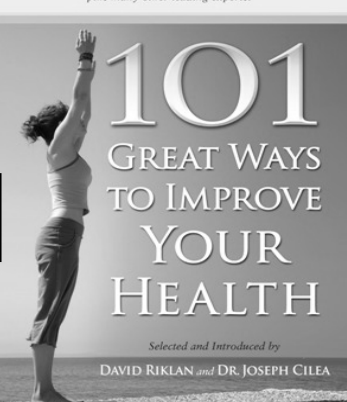
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Co-authored by Aruba’s
Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

Dow ends up nearly 380 on Citigroup profit news



Neil Gallagher of Bear Wagner Specialists works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, March 10, 2009 in New York. Led by financial companies, the market made its first big move upward in weeks Tuesday after Citigroup Inc. said it had operated at a profit during the first two months of the year.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Wall Street snapped out of its stupor and posted its best performance of the year Tuesday, finding a badly needed glimmer of optimism in the most unlikely of places: Citigroup is actually managing to turn a profit. The 379-point gain for the Dow Jones industrials, a rally of almost 6 percent, was a welcome break from almost uninterrupted selling. But just as almost nobody expects the banks to snap back to health, almost nobody thinks the market has hit its bottom.

“One day isn’t going to make a trend,” said Kurt Karl, chief U.S. economist at Swiss Re. Citigroup Chief Executive Vikram Pandit said in a letter to employees that the bank had operated at a profit for the first two months of this year and was on track, based on historical trends, to make \$8.3 billion for the quarter. Pandit said the bank has had its best performance since the third quarter of 2007, the last time it booked a quarterly profit.

The news broke a months-long torrent of bad news from the banking industry — particularly for Citi, which had grown so shaky the federal government had to take a 36 percent ownership stake.

Banking stocks led the markets higher all day. The Dow finished at 6,926.49, its highest close since late February. All 30 of the Dow industrial stocks gained ground.

Citi itself finished at \$1.45, a gain of 40 cents. Last week, its stock fell below \$1, a level so stunning it left the bank at the mercy of late-night comedians.

A gain on Wednesday would give the Dow its first two-day winning streak since early

February. But Wall Street is used to false starts. The Dow had gained 200 points in a single day five times in 2009 before Tuesday. Each time, it lost ground in the next session, twice by triple digits.

And after they hit their lowest points last year, both the Dow and the Standard & Poor’s 500 jumped about 20 percent. But those lows didn’t last, and Wall Street is now trading well below those levels.

On Tuesday, the S&P closed at 719.60, still less than half of its value at the market peak in October 2007.

“I would be surprised to see us trade back over 800 in the near term,” said Ben Halliburton, chief investment officer of Tradition Capital Management in Summit, N.J. “The news coming out on the economic front will continue to be rather gloomy.”

Analysts also suggested that the market’s gains, especially among financial stocks, could be attributed in part to covering by short-sellers — investors who bet stocks will fall, and are forced to buy to limit their losses when the market rallies.

Among banking stocks, Bank of America gained 28 percent, JPMorgan Chase gained 23 percent and Wells Fargo & Co. gained 18 percent.

Jon Merriman, chief executive of brokerage Merriman Curhan Ford in San Francisco, said the letter from Citi’s CEO shows the bank is lending. Government officials and market analysts alike have said more lending is key to an economic recovery.

“Maybe Citibank is not going to zero, that means it’s going to lend again and then the economy will turn,” he said. “People today in the stock market are connecting those dots. And the market is up broadly, it’s not just the banks.”

Reports also surfaced Tuesday

that federal regulators are considering a proposal to reinstate the “uptick rule,” which proponents say helps protect companies from excessive short-selling, when investors bet a stock will drop. The rule expired in 2007.

And investors were encouraged by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke’s call for an overhaul of the country’s financial regulatory system. Speaking before the Council on Foreign Relations, Bernanke said companies deemed “too big to fail” must be subject to more rigorous supervision to prevent them from taking on excessive risk.

Bernanke’s remarks come as the Obama administration and Congress begin to devise their overhaul strategies.

The combination of good news was enough to propel the Dow to its best day since Thanksgiving week, when it notched back-to-back gains of 494 and 397 points. But there will still plenty of pessimism on Wall Street.

“There’s nothing that anybody can do to turn the market around,” said Harry Rady, chief executive of Rady Asset Management.

“This is just a little bear market blip.” Halliburton was hesitant even to put much stock in the Citigroup announcement for fear that rising losses on loans could eat away at the bank’s operating profit.

As long as housing prices are falling and loan defaults are rising, “They are going to have to take asset write-downs,” he said. “I don’t think this is a game-changer.”

Late last month, in its third attempt to rescue the bank from collapse, the Treasury Department took a 36 percent stake in Citi. The bank has already received \$45 billion in bailout money. □

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ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of "Aruhiba" cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

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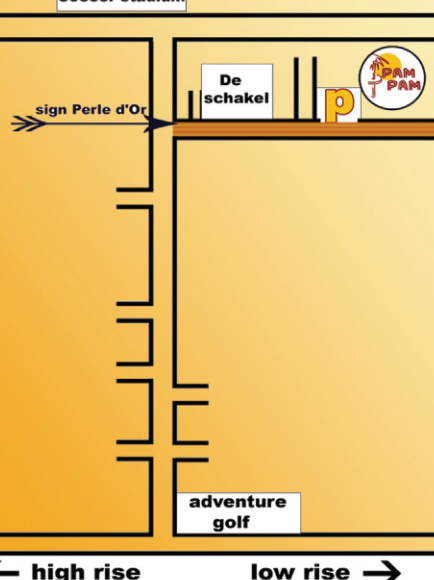
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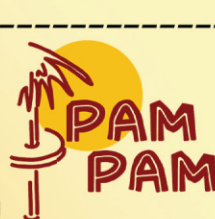
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The hottest place to be cool is Bugaloe!



PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot. Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course. Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier on the beach between the RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort at the Hi-Rise strip: an easy walk from all the major hotels.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Joyride, Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables

may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal. For more information or to make reservations please call 586-4686 .

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Bernard Madoff exits Manhattan federal court, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, in New York. Madoff will plead guilty Thursday to 11 criminal counts including money laundering, perjury and securities, mail and wire fraud and will do so without a plea deal, knowing it carries a potential prison term of 150 years, lawyers said Tuesday in court.

Associated Press

Madoff's lawyer says client will plead guilty

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and TOM HAYS
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard Madoff will plead guilty Thursday to 11 criminal counts including money laundering, perjury and securities, mail and wire fraud and will do so without a plea deal, knowing it carries a potential prison term of 150 years, lawyers said Tuesday in court.

Lawyers outlined the plea arrangement for the 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman that was set to unfold later this week after Madoff waived several potential conflicts of interest between Madoff and his lawyer, Ira Sorkin.

Asked by the judge if Madoff would plead guilty Thursday, Sorkin said: "I think that's a fair expectation."

In papers filed after Tuesday's proceeding, prosecutors outlined the case against Madoff, who quietly spoke in court, answering the questions of U.S. District Judge Denny Chin. Prosecutors said in the papers that Madoff operated a massive pyramid scheme in which his clients' funds were misappropriated and converted to the use of Madoff, his business and others.

Chin said he will not sentence Madoff for several months after Thursday's proceedings.

He told prosecutors to limit the number of victims who will be allowed to speak in court to those who want to argue either that Chin not accept the plea, or go against what Chin plans to decide as to whether Madoff should remain free on bail after Thursday's hearing.

Chin also said anyone addressing the court will be limited in time and must conduct themselves in a "respectful and dignified manner."

Sorkin complained that federal authorities have not let lawyers for Madoff study the financial records of his company so he can show that some individuals or financial funds actually received more in payouts over the years than they are claiming they lost.

Chin said he understood that Madoff was not agreeing to the extent of the losses.

Although authorities have outlined a \$50 billion fraud that they say Madoff carried out for many years, those reviewing his company's books say the size of the actual fraud might have been less than \$20 billion.

So far, authorities have located about \$1 billion for jilted investors.

Sorkin's family had invested more than \$900,000 with Madoff. After questioning Madoff, the judge ruled that Sorkin may continue representing Madoff. □



Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair, left, and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Michael Maples, right, arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on worldwide threats. The committee's ranking Republican Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. is second from right, Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla. is at right.

Associated Press

U.S. officials: Iran lacks key nuclear material

By PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran does not yet have any highly enriched uranium, the fuel needed to make a nuclear warhead, two top U.S. intelligence officials told Congress Tuesday, disputing a claim by an Israeli official.

Continued on Page B4

33 dead in suicide attack on Iraq tribal leaders



Iraqi police stand around a vehicle destroyed in a parked car bomb blast in the town of al-Hamadaniya, 40 kilometers north of Mosul, Iraq, Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Two civilians were killed in the blast and another eight were wounded.

Associated Press

By KIM GAMEL

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber struck Sunni and Shiite tribal leaders and high-ranking security officials touring a market after a reconciliation meeting west of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing 33 people in the second major attack in the capital area in two days.

Continued on Page B6

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Somalis in Minneapolis fall under FBI suspicion

By AMY FORLITI,

Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of the Twin Cities' thriving Somali community say they are being questioned by the FBI as it investigates whether some young men are being "radicalized" in Minnesota and recruited to fight with terror groups in their homeland.

The immigrants are a success story in Minneapolis and St. Paul, where the state's tradition of welcoming refugees has helped attract one of the nation's largest Somali populations. Why some would want to leave, especially to return to a lawless country, has confused many Somalis.

"Like most of the community, I had difficulty believing that anybody would go to Somalia after their own families left because of wars," said Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed, a Minneapolis physician. "It stunned most of us, I think, when we heard a name of someone who went and died." The Senate's Homeland Security Committee plans a hearing Wednesday on possible terror recruitment in the United States, and witnesses from Minnesota are expected to testify.

Some local Somalis say the young men might have thought they would be seen as patriots. Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991, when warlords overthrew a socialist dictator and then turned on each other, causing anarchy in the African nation of 7 million. In 2006, Somalia's weak government called in Ethiopian troops — with U.N. support — to oust an Islamic group controlling Mogadishu and southern Somalia.

Many Somalis saw the troops as an invading and abusive force. There were countless reports of civilians being raped, beaten or having their homes looted. Islamic militants in the capital city fought back in battles that killed thousands of civilians

over two years and displaced more than a million people.

"The majority of Somalis here were opposed to the (Ethiopian) occupation," said Abdi Samatar, a University of Minnesota geography professor. "The Somali people did not ask for it, and the brutality was incredible. Anybody who's human-rights oriented and has a patriotic sentiment would be incredibly enraged."

Then in October, a Minneapolis man carried out a suicide bombing in Somalia. FBI Director Robert Mueller said last month that the bomber had probably been "radicalized" in the Twin Cities.

Now many Somalis say FBI agents have questioned them about recent travels abroad and asked which mosques they attended.

Sharmarke Jama, a 26-year-old businessman, was questioned after traveling to Canada. He said the Ethiopian invasion was a topic of discussion among immigrants, so he was not surprised to hear that some young men might have gone to fight. But, he said, the suicide bombing was different: "It really shook the foundation of the community ... as soon as the suicide bombing came into the equation, it was a whole new ball game."

The Oct. 29 bombing by Shirwa Ahmed was part of a series of coordinated attacks that targeted a U.N. compound, the Ethiopian consulate and the presidential palace in Hargeisa, capital of the Somaliland region.

U.S. counterterrorism officials have raised concerns that an

extremist group called al-Shabab is recruiting young men in Minnesota and elsewhere. It isn't clear if Ahmed was part of the group. Al-Shabab, a name meaning "The Youth," controls much of Somalia and wants to establish an Islamic state there. Many Somalis in the Twin Cities welcome the federal investigation, including Abdirizak Bihi, whose teenage nephew left Minneapolis in November and called his family days later saying he was in Somalia. The boy's whereabouts are unknown.

"They did not decide to go back to the hell that their families fled from," Bihi said of the young men who left. "There must be some group that has been brainwashing them."

Others have worried about a backlash. Mohamed, the physician, said some young Somalis have been questioned unfairly. He said his cousin was detained for hours at the Minneapolis airport while being questioned about a January visit to Nairobi and which mosques he attended.

"What is disturbing is the manner of the questions," Mohamed said. "Nobody would ask, 'Have you been to a church?'" Cawo Abdi, a professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, said the FBI has given "the impression that there were all these terrorist cells in our midst."

"It is really unfortunate that everyone has to pay the price for the crime," he said.

An FBI spokesman did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday,



In this Feb. 25, 2009, file photo worshippers attend evening prayers during an open house at the Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center in Minneapolis, Minn. The mosque, Minnesota's largest, was suspected by the families of some missing Somali men of having a role in their loved ones' disappearance — something mosque officials have repeatedly denied.

(AP Photo/Craig Lassing)

but the agency has said it reached out to community leaders in the Minneapolis area. Spokesman E.K. Wilson has said the FBI wants Somalis to come forward with their concerns and any information.

The families of some men who left suspect Minnesota's largest mosque, Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center, of having a role in their loved ones' decision — something mosque officials have repeatedly denied. The mosque recently held an open house to try to address public concerns.

Director Farhan Hurre said mosque officials have noticed FBI agents conducting surveillance outside the mosque. He also said the mosque has received a handful of angry phone calls since the young men left, including one in which the caller said: "You don't belong here. Go back to your country."

Local Somalis say they are

eager for authorities to finish their investigation.

"The community feels vulnerable when there's a news item about it," said Saeed Fahia, executive director of the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota.

Somalia has a new government under President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, a moderate Islamist with allies among the militias who control much of central and parts of southern Somalia. Ahmed's government directly controls only a few blocks of Mogadishu and the border town of El Berde.

The last Ethiopian troops left Mogadishu in mid-January. But al-Shabab — which controls most of the country — has now threatened to focus attacks on an African Union peacekeeping force. When it comes to al-Shabab, Mohamed said, "many Somalis hope they will choose the path of peace, and not the path of war." □

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Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., second from left, talks with Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, before the start of the committee's hearing on worldwide threats.

Associated Press

NUCLEAR MATERIAL Continued from Page B1

U.S. National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Michael Maples said Tuesday that Iran has only low-enriched uranium — which would need to be refined into highly enriched uranium before it can fuel a warhead. Neither officials said there were indications that refining has occurred. Their comments disputed a claim made last weekend by Israel's top intelligence

military official, who said Iran has crossed a technical threshold and is now capable of producing atomic weapons. The claim made by Israeli Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin runs counter to estimates by U.S. intelligence that the earliest Iran could produce a weapon is 2010, with some analysts saying it is more likely that it is 2015. Maples said the United States and Israel are interpreting the same facts, but arriving at different conclusions. "The Israelis are far more

concerned about it," Maples told the Senate Armed Services Committee. The status of Iran's nuclear program has been the subject of conflicting public statements by top military and intelligence officials recently in the wake of U.N. revelations that Iran has more low-enriched uranium than previously thought. Earlier this month, Defense Sec. Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen differed over Iran's capability. While Mullen said Iran has sufficient fission material for a bomb, Gates insisted "they're not close to a weapon at this point." Maples also told the committee that insurgent violence in Afghanistan has gotten more ferocious in the last year even as violence in Iraq declined. The use of roadside bombs in Afghanistan more than doubled in 2008 over the previous year, and attacks overall increased by 55 percent from 2007 to 2008. Suicide bombings increased by 21 percent and small-arms attacks increased by 33 percent. Some of these trends reflect

more aggressive military operations in Taliban strongholds by U.S. and other NATO forces, Maples said. Maples said the Somali extremist group al-Shabaab is poised to formally merge with al-Qaida, expanding the terrorist franchise in East Africa. An analysis of the propaganda released by both groups recently highlights their ideological similarities, suggesting a merger is forthcoming, Maples said. Al-Shabaab conducts almost daily attacks in Somalia. A merger would strengthen al-Qaida's foothold in East Africa. The two groups have long been suspected of working together, but they have not yet announced a formal alliance. Al-Qaida has operations in north Africa, Yemen and Iraq. Blair said National Security Agency is poised to take a lead role in protecting U.S. computer networks from cyber attacks. The NSA — tarnished in the public view by its role in the Bush-era "warrantless wiretapping" program — now conducts clandestine computer attacks on U.S. adversaries, and could use those skills to

protect U.S. networks from similar attacks. He said it must be done under strict oversight to make sure it is not gathering private American information that violates privacy and civil liberties laws. Blair also stood firm behind former U.S. Ambassador Charles Freeman, his pick for a top analysis job, despite strong congressional criticism. Freeman, who was U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, had harshly criticized the Israeli government, the Iraq war and the war on terrorism in general. A policy council Freeman headed also has been criticized for some ties to foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia and China. Blair's inspector general is investigating those ties while Freeman works with ethics advisers to scrub his personal finances for potential conflicts of interest. Blair has tapped Freeman to head the National Intelligence Council, which analyzes critical national security issues drawing from all U.S. intelligence agencies. The National Intelligence Estimates are meant to be unvarnished and apolitical. Blair said Freeman's strong opinions are exactly why he wants him to be chairman of the council. "I think I can do a better job if I am getting strong analytical viewpoints than if I am getting pre-cooked pablum," Blair said. □

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This photo provided by the National Museum of American History shows words engraved inside Abraham Lincoln's English gold watch. For nearly 150 years, a story has circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch. On Tuesday, March 10, 2009 museum curators confirmed it was true.
(AP Photo/National Museum of American History)

Museum reveals engraving hidden in Lincoln watch

By BRETT ZONGKER,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – For nearly 150 years, a story has circulated about a hidden Civil War message engraved inside Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch. On Tuesday, museum curators confirmed it was true. A watchmaker used tiny tools to carefully pry open the antique watch at the National Museum of American History, and a descendant of the engraver read aloud the message from a metal plate underneath the watch face.

"Jonathan Dillon April 13 - 1861," part of the inscription reads, "Fort Sumpter (sic) was attacked by the rebels on the above date." Another part reads, "Thank God we have a government."

The words were etched in tiny cursive handwriting and filled the the space between tiny screws and gears that jutted through the metal plate. A magnifying glass was required to read them.

Jonathan Dillon, then a watchmaker on Pennsylvania Avenue, had Lincoln's watch in his hands when he heard the first shots

of the Civil War had been fired in South Carolina. The Irish immigrant later recalled being the only Union sympathizer working at the shop in a divided Washington.

Dillon's story was passed down among his family and friends, eventually reaching a New York Times reporter. In a 1906 article in the paper, an 84-year-old Dillon said no one, including Lincoln, ever saw the inscription as far as he knew.

Dillon had a fuzzy recollection of what he had engraved. He told the newspaper he had written: "The first gun is fired. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a president who at least will try."

For years the story went unconfirmed.

The watchmaker's great-great grandson, Doug Stiles, first heard the tale of the engraving from his great uncle decades ago. He said the story had reached extended family as far away as Ireland.

A few months ago, he used Google to find the New York Times story, and last month he passed the information along to Smithsonian curators, who knew nothing about the engraving.

On Tuesday, watchmaker George Thomas, who volunteers at the museum, spent several minutes carefully opening the watch as an audience of reporters and museum workers watched on a video monitor.

"The moment of truth has come. Is there or is there not an inscription?" Thomas said, teasing the audience, which gasped when he confirmed it was there. He called Stiles up to read his ancestor's words, drawing smiles and a few sighs of relief.

"Like Pearl Harbor or 9/11, this was the reaction he had (to the Civil War,)" Stiles said of the inscription.

Later, Stiles said he felt closer to the 16th president.

"My gosh, that was Lincoln's watch," he said, "and my ancestor put graffiti on it!"

Lincoln's family kept the watch until it was donated to the museum in 1958. It was Lincoln's everyday pocket watch, one of the president's only valuable possessions he brought with him to the White House from Springfield, Ill., said Harry Rubenstein, curator of the museum's politics and reform division. □

Church shooting suspect left 'Last Day Will' card

By JIM SUHR,
Associated Press Writer

ST. LOUIS – The man accused of gunning down an Illinois pastor during his sermon as horrified churchgoers watched left an index card marked "Last Day Will" at his home, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Other documents detail how the Rev. Fred Winters tried to run from accused gunman Terry Sedlacek at First Baptist Church in Maryville, Ill., a St. Louis suburb, before the preacher collapsed and bled to death Sunday.

Authorities say Sedlacek, 27, of nearby Troy, fired four times from a .45-caliber Glock pistol, hitting Winters once in the heart.

The court papers indicate investigators have found an arsenal in Sedlacek's bedroom, including two 12-gauge shotguns, a rifle and a box of 550 .22-caliber bullets. An inventory of items seized from his home also lists the "Last Day Will" index card but does not detail what else was written on it.

A prosecutor said Monday that a day planner found on Sedlacek's dresser referred to Sunday as "death day," suggesting Sedlacek planned the attack. Authorities say Sedlacek brought to the church enough ammunition to kill 30 people.

Sedlacek was charged Monday with first-degree murder and aggravated battery in the shooting of Winters and the knife wounds suffered by two congregants who wrestled him to the ground after the shooting.

Sedlacek remained in serious condition Tuesday in a St. Louis hospital with self-inflicted stab wounds to the throat. One of the injured congregants, Terry Bullard, was upgraded to fair condition.

Investigators said they still hadn't pinpointed why Sedlacek allegedly strolled into the church during its early Sunday service, packing a pistol and three magazines loaded with a total of 30 bullets.

An affidavit by Illinois State Police detective James Walker said Sedlacek entered the

sanctuary and walked down an aisle to the front of the church toward the pulpit, where Winters spoke to him.

Walker wrote that Sedlacek then fired at Winters. Investigators have said that bullet clipped the top of the Bible the preacher held, sending pieces of paper spraying like confetti. Many of the roughly 150 witnesses said it looked like a skit.

Winters, 45, then bolted toward the edge of the stage with Sedlacek running parallel to him, Walker wrote.

"Pastor Winters then jumped from the stage where he landed on the ground. Sedlacek then placed himself next to the pastor and fired multiple shots, striking Winters," the affidavit said.

Investigators have said Sedlacek fired four rounds altogether before his gun jammed. After chasing and mortally wounding Winters, Walker wrote, Sedlacek tried to flee but was subdued by Bullard and Keith Melton.

"The way I feel in my heart is my pastor needed help and I had to help. I can't relate that back to anything. That's just how I feel about it," Melton said. □

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An Islamist fighter from Al-Shabaab Mujaahidin beats a youth, Monday, March 9, 2009, after he was found guilty of gang rape in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, Judge Abdul Haq designated four men to deliver the punishment immediately in front of a crowd of around 100 onlookers. Four youths were publicly whipped in the Somali capital on Monday after an Islamic court found them guilty of gang rape, potentially bolstering the reputation of the Islamic insurgency to deliver some form of justice in the chaotic, war-ravaged nation.

By MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR and MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN

Associated Press Writers

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The Somali Cabinet voted to make Islam the basis of the country's legal system on Tuesday in a bid to undercut an increasingly fractured Islamic insurgency. The move was an attempt to isolate more extreme elements

IRAN
Continued from pge B1

Despite the ongoing violence, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said he does not believe the Iraqi government will ask Americans to remain in the country past a 2011 deadline set by a security agreement between the two countries.

The bombing — which left clusters of bodies near the shabby market stalls lining a road — was part of a spike of violence that comes as the U.S. military begins to draw down its forces.

The bomber detonated an explosives belt as the tribal leaders were walking through the market in the town of Abu Ghraib, accompanied by security officials and journalists, according to the Iraqi military.

Two Iraqi television journalists from the privately owned Baghdadiya station were among those killed in the attack. Four staffers of the state television network were wounded, one seriously, their station said.

of the insurgency by agreeing to a demand supported by more moderate elements and much of the Somali population. Several more moderate insurgent groups had said they would stop fighting the government if Shariah was formally introduced. They include the Islamic Party, an alliance of four insurgent groups that control parts of

The owner of an auto repair shop said he heard somebody shout "God is Great" before the blast and it was followed by heavy shooting by the security forces.

"I hid for a while, but then I raised my head to see scattered bodies, including women and children, and some surviving women and children were screaming out of fear," Ahmed Ali, 33, said.

Largescale attacks in the Baghdad area have marred an announcement on Sunday by the U.S. military that 12,000 American troops and 4,000 Britons will be withdrawn from the country by September — the first step in fulfilling President Barack Obama's pledge to end America's part in the war by the end of 2011. U.S. troops are to leave the cities by the end of June, and the attacks raise questions about whether Iraqi security forces will be able to cope with the persistent violence. Shakir Fizaa, the mayor of Abu Ghraib, blamed al-Qaida in Iraq, saying the militants

Somali Cabinet votes to implement Islamic law

the capital and have influence in the port town of Kismayo; and Ahlu-sunah Wal-jamea, which controls parts of central Somalia.

The al-Shabab group, which controls the main cities in the south, has said it does not recognize the legitimacy of the government and is seen as waging a battle to seize direct control of the country. The U.S. State Department says al-Shabab has ties to al-Qaida. The bill introducing Islamic law, or Shariah, must still be approved by parliament, which is expected to hear it within days.

Information Minister Farhan Ali Mohamed said imposing Shariah would help end insurgent attacks.

He said that if the bill passed a committee of cabinet members and members of a national clerics' council would be set up to examine how to bring the country's constitution into line with Muslim principles. He did not go into specifics.

The ministry of justice would still select judges and police would have the power to detain suspects and carry out sentences, he said.

The insurgency, never a completely cohesive force, has become increasingly divided after the appointment of Sheik Ahmed Sheik Sharif to the country's presidency this January.

President Sharif is a former Islamic fighter who describes himself as a moderate and has distanced himself from more hardline elements of the insurgency who have attacked A.U. peacekeepers.

Thousands of Somalis have been killed in battles between the insurgents and pro-government forces in the past two years. The fighting has been complicated by a web of clan militias, the involvement of neighboring countries, and freelance bandits who prey on civilians.

Some scholars say the country's transitional charter,

which created the current government, is un-Islamic because it was not based on the Quran, although it does stipulates that Islam shall form the basis of Somali law.

Non-governmental Islamic courts are one of the few functioning institutions in the chaotic Horn of Africa nation, which has been without an effective central government since clan leaders overthrew a socialist dictator in 1991 then turned their militias on each other. In 2006, the community-based courts formed an alliance that took over the capital of Mogadishu and much of the south before Ethiopian troops supporting the shaky and corrupt U.N.-backed government chased them from power.

The Ethiopians left Somalia at the beginning of this year as part of a peace deal and parliament elected President Sharif as the country's leader after the former president resigned. □



Iraqis stand around cars destroyed in a parked car bomb blast in the town of al-Hamadaniya, 40 kilometers north of Mosul, Iraq, Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Two civilians were killed in the blast and another eight were wounded.

Last Sunday, a suicide attacker killed 30 people near the police academy in east Baghdad. Abu Ghraib is a mainly Sunni district that also is the site of the prison where U.S. soldiers were photographed abusing inmates, igniting a scandal that was one of the biggest setbacks to American efforts to win the peace in Iraq. The area was once one of the most dangerous in Iraq but has seen a sharp decline in

violence after a decision by local Sunni tribal leaders to turn against al-Qaida in Iraq. The 2011 deadline for U.S. troops to withdraw was set in a security agreement that took effect on Jan. 1. There has been speculation the Iraqis may ask the U.S. for an extension. But Gen. Ray Odierno told the AP in an interview that he has received no indication that Iraqi leaders want that to happen. □

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Dalai Lama: Tibet in 'constant fear' under China

By **GAVIN RABINOWITZ**
Associated Press Writer

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — China has overseen a “brutal crackdown” in Tibet since protests shook the Himalayan region last year, part of decades of Chinese oppression that have driven Tibetan culture to the verge of extinction, the Dalai Lama said Tuesday. The Tibetan spiritual leader made the comments in a speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising that sent him into exile.

“Even today, Tibetans in Tibet live in constant fear, and the Chinese authorities remain constantly suspicious of them,” the Dalai Lama said in this Indian hill town, where he and the self-proclaimed government-in-exile have been based since shortly after fleeing their homeland.

Chinese martial law, and hard-line policies such as the Cultural Revolution, devastated the mountain region and left hundreds of thousands of Tibetans dead, he said, blasting the “brutal crackdown” in the region since protests last year turned violent.

He told a group of about 2,000 people, including Buddhist monks, Tibetan schoolchildren and a handful of foreign supporters, that the religion, culture, language and identity

of successive generations of Tibetans faced “extinction.” Tibetans in Tibet were living in “hell on earth,” he added. The group had gathered in a courtyard that separates the Dalai Lama’s home from the town’s main temple; monks blew enormous conch shells and long brass horns to herald his arrival.

While his comments were unusually strong for a man known for his deeply pacifist beliefs, he also urged that any change come peacefully and reiterated his support for the “Middle Way,” which calls for significant Tibetan autonomy under Chinese rule. “I have no doubt that the justice of Tibetan cause will prevail if we continue to tread a path of truth and nonviolence,” he said.

Later, at a press conference, he said he’d become deeply discouraged about repeated rounds of failed talks between his representatives and Beijing. “We have to prepare for the worst. At the same time, we should not give up our hope,” he said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said he would not comment on the Dalai Lama’s statements, dismissing them as lies. “The Dalai group confuses right and

wrong and spreads rumors,” he said.

After the Dalai Lama’s speech, thousands of young Tibetans took to the streets of Dharmasala chanting “China Out!” and “Tibet belongs to Tibetans!”

About 1,000 more protesters marched peacefully through New Delhi in support of the Tibetans, many chanting “Shame on China!” Still more protested in Seoul, Nepal and Canberra, the Australian capital, where they scuffled with police outside the Chinese Embassy. Four of about 300 protesters were arrested there. While Beijing claims Tibet has been part of Chinese territory for centuries, Tibet was a deeply isolated theocracy until 1951, when Chinese troops invaded Lhasa, the regional capital. Tuesday’s anniversary marked March 10, 1959, riots inside Tibet against Chinese rule which lead to a crackdown and, later that month, the Dalai Lama’s dramatic flight across the Himalayas and into exile. Beijing has long claimed that it brought modernity to a region where monks and wealthy landowners had long ruled over huge tracts of land worked by slaves and serfs.

Ma, the Chinese official, said Tibet went through democratic reform in 1959, and that Tibetans had been freed from



The Dalai Lama greets media personnel, unseen, before a press conference at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharmasala, India, Tuesday, March 10, 2009. China has overseen a “brutal crackdown” in Tibet since protests shook the Himalayan region last year, part of decades of Chinese oppression that have driven Tibetan culture to the verge of extinction, the Dalai Lama said Tuesday in a speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising that sent him into exile.

Associated Press

slavery. But Tuesday, the Dalai Lama dismissed such claims, saying most of the development in the last 50 years was designed to make Chinese rule easier, and came at “the huge cost of devastating the Tibetan environment and way of life.” He also said he’d been recently invited by a group of Taiwanese journalists to visit Taiwan — move likely to anger rival China. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949.

“Visiting Taiwan is purely spiritual,” said the Dalai Lama. Last year, a peaceful commemoration of the 1959

uprising by monks in Lhasa erupted into anti-Chinese rioting four days later and spread to surrounding provinces — the most sustained and violent demonstrations by Tibetans in decades.

Following the protests, China has stepped up its campaign to vilify the Dalai Lama, accusing him of leading a campaign to split the region from the rest of the country.

The Dalai Lama insists, though, that he does not want Tibetan independence, saying he is only seeking greater autonomy for the region to protect its unique Buddhist culture. □

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and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried,

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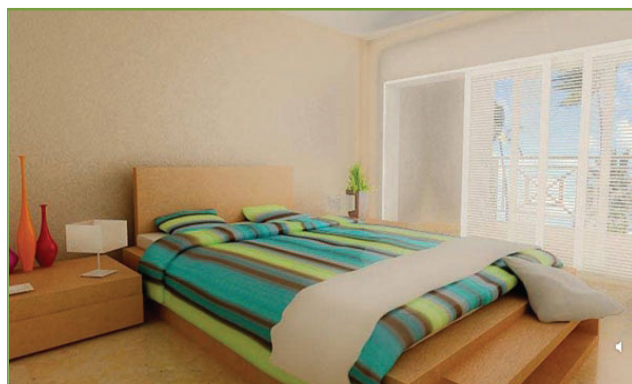
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Coming in all kinds of shapes and designs, the

chocolates of Taste of Belgium follow the latest trends and are always the height of fashion. The store is of course at its very best during Valentine's, Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas, but recently Halloween also has become a major highlight, with very funny and scary sweets. The elegant shop's

decorations are invariably stunning. The chocolaterie's small terrace is doing a booming business as a café and cappuccinos, lattes and frappes are served with delicious pastries, cakes or sandwiches. Seated in a comfortable chair one can witness formerly drooping shoppers continue their quest revived and full of energy after a spell at Taste of Belgium



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NHL general managers weigh in on fighting



Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman David Koci (33) fights with Edmonton Oilers left wing Steve MacIntyre (33) in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Edmonton, Alta. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009.

Associated Press

NAPLES, Florida (AP) — NHL general managers think some fighting in their league needs to be eliminated or at least reduced.

They're recommending a rule change that would give a 10-minute misconduct penalty to players who fight immediately after a faceoff. The 10-minute misconduct could also be applied to any other fight a referee believes was staged.

"I'm kind of offended by the fact that

it's a staged fight," said Minnesota Wild general manager Doug Risebrough, a 13-year NHL veteran. "The idea is that players have to be involved in the game."

In staged fights, there is an unspoken understanding between teams allowing players to tangle with each other, usually during inconsequential parts of the game.

"I've never really thought of the strategy because I thought it was a

dumb idea," Risebrough said.

The general managers spoke during the second day of their annual meetings. Their recommendations would have to be approved by the NHL's competition committee and Board of Governors before the 2009-10 season.

The GMs also recommended limiting fighting in response to a clean hit, by calling the instigator penalty more aggressively. The league has seen an increase in violent reactions to clean hits.

"I don't like those fights. I don't understand them," said Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke, former GM of the rough-and-tumble Anaheim Ducks and a longtime proponent of fighting.

"Start calling the instigator penalties, and we'll get rid of some of this nonsense."

Fights in response to clean hits are an example of ice hockey players' self-regulation, where referees and rules apparently aren't trusted to regulate the game, and players take the matter into their own hands, by responding to a hit with a fight.

"Let the players police themselves? I don't think that's right," league

disciplinarian Colin Campbell said. "I think there's rules in place to do that."

League statistics cited by Campbell show that 108 (22 percent) of the first 500 fights this season occurred immediately after the faceoff. He also said there was a 20 percent drop in fights during the last five minutes of the game after the NHL gave an automatic five-minute major penalty for those fights.

"Rules do make a difference," he said.

While endorsing one rule change and more aggressive use of the instigator rule, the GMs rejected or at least postponed an NHL Players' Association proposal from Monday to add a rule specifically banning shoulder hits to the head.

Campbell said those hits have already been punished with supplemental discipline, such as the five-game suspension given to New York Islanders defenseman Brendan Witt after elbowing Toronto forward Niklas Hagman in the head on Feb. 26.

"Our (GMs) didn't have the appetite to have that called on the ice right now," Campbell said. □

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NHL Roundup

Ward leads Canes past Rangers 3-0

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Cam Ward stopped 28 shots in his fifth shutout of the season as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 3-0 on Monday to match a season high with their fourth straight victory.

Joe Corvo and Rod Brind'Amour scored, and Tuomo Ruutu added an empty-netter for the Hurricanes.

Carolina jumped from ninth in the Eastern Conference into a tie for fifth with Montreal with 77 points in the crowded playoff chase. The Hurricanes have won eight of 10.

The Rangers had their three-game winning streak snapped and dropped out of a playoff position for the first time this season.

Senators 2, Maple Leafs 1
At Ottawa, Daniel Alfredsson and Dany Heatley scored second-period goals as Ottawa beat Toronto.

Brian Elliott made 25 saves in his third straight start for Ottawa, which won all of those games.

Ian White scored in the first period for Toronto, which lost in regulation for the second straight game after earning at least a point in its eight previous games (6-0-2).

Maple Leafs veteran Curtis Joseph became the sixth goalie in league history to allow 2,500 goals on Alfredsson's score, an unassisted effort in the second period that tied it at 1.

He joined John Vanbiesbrouck, Tony Esposito, Grant Fuhr, Patrick Roy and Gilles Meloche, who allowed an NHL record 2,756 goals.

Kings 3, Canucks 2

At Los Angeles, Jarret Stoll scored twice during power plays and Teddy Purcell had two assists as Los Angeles edged Vancouver.

Defenseman Denis Gauthier also scored and Jonathan Quick made 20 saves, helping end Vancouver's four-game winning streak and handing the Canucks just their third loss in 15 games. Los Angeles has scored at least one power-



New York Rangers' Sean Avery (16) has his shot blocked by Carolina Hurricanes' goalie Cam Ward (30) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, March 9, 2009. The Hurricanes won 3-0. Ward stopped 28 shots in his fifth shutout of the season.

Associated Press

play goal in 19 of its last 22 games, and two or more in seven of those contests.

Roberto Luongo allowed more than two goals for the first time in his last eight starts, stopping 19 shots. He had won 12 of his previous 13 after losing his first five games following his return from a groin injury that sidelined him for 24 games.

Alex Burrows and Taylor Pyatt scored Vancouver's goals. □

NBA Roundup

What a Wade! Three-pointer at end lifts Heat

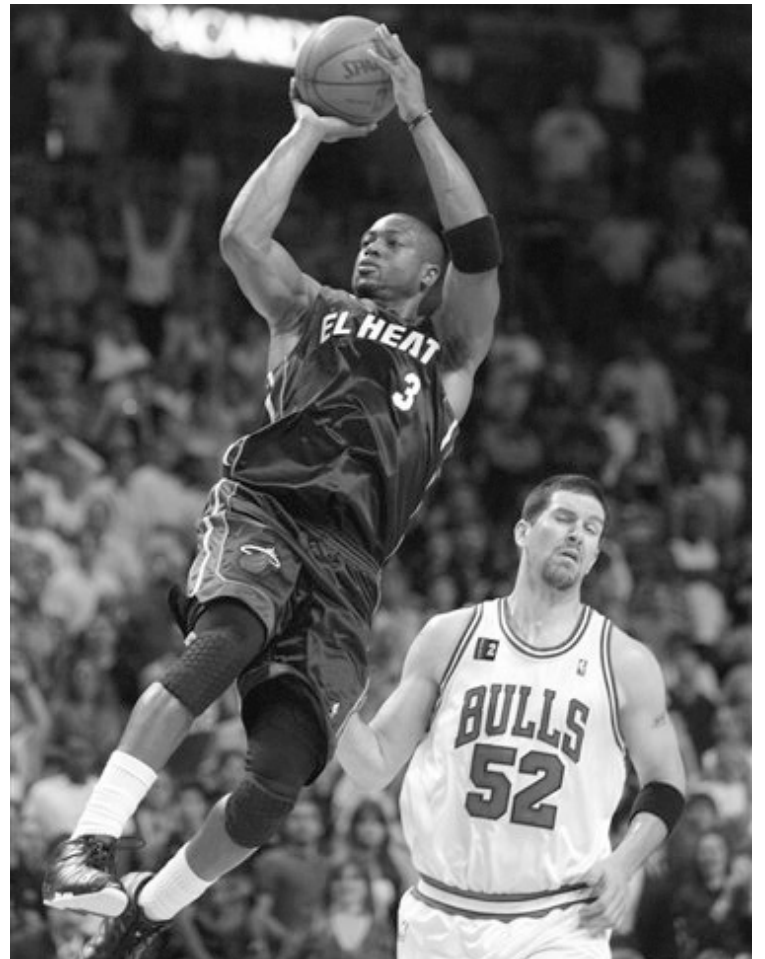
MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade stole the ball from John Salmons with 4 seconds left, then made a running 3-pointer as time expired to lift the Miami Heat to a 130-127 double-overtime win over the Chicago Bulls on Monday.

Wade — who finished with 48 points and 12 assists in 49 minutes, shooting 15-for-21 from the field — made a 3-pointer at the end of the first half, then again at the end of regulation. And after missing a layup at the end of the first extra session, he more than atoned for that at the end.

Referees reviewed the play for more than two minutes, before Mark Wunderlich shot his hands in the air, officially giving Miami the win.

Michael Beasley had 18 points, Mario Chalmers added 17 and Jamario Moon scored 13 for the Heat, who stayed within 1½ games of Atlanta for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Ben Gordon scored a season-high 43 points for the Bulls, including eight 3-pointers. At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 27 points as



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for the game-winning shot in front of Chicago Bulls' Brad Miller during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 9, 2009, in Miami. The Heat won 130-127.

Associated Press

Portland defeated Los Angeles in a game marred by the Trail Blazers' Rudy Fernandez being carried off the court on

a stretcher after a hard foul. Fernandez, a rookie from Spain, was hurt late in the third quarter when he was fouled by Trevor Ariza while going up for a shot. He was carried from the court on a stretcher with his neck in a brace.

Fernandez was conscious and alert when he left the court, and he had full movement of his extremities, the team said. But he was experiencing chest pain and was taken to a hospital.

Travis Outlaw added 22 points for the Blazers, who have won 12 straight at the Rose Garden.

Kobe Bryant had 26 points for the Lakers, who haven't won at the Rose Garden in their last seven tries, with their last victory on Feb. 23, 2005.

In other NBA it was, Houston 97, Denver 95; Detroit 98, Orlando 94; Washington 110, Minnesota 99; Atlanta 89, Charlotte 79 and Portland 111, Los Angeles Lakers 94. □

Puerto Rico beats Netherlands 3-1 in WBC

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Yadier Molina's go-ahead double keyed a three-run rally in the eighth inning as Puerto Rico beat the Netherlands team 3-1 on Monday to advance to the second round of the World Baseball Classic.

"The boys have experienced a lot, and me even more," Puerto Rico manager Jose Oquendo said. "There was no panic. The Netherlands played great. They can hold their heads up and I expect them to give a good battle to the Dominican Republic."

The Netherlands pulled off a major upset in its tournament opener Saturday, beating the Dominican Republic 3-2. The pitching staff, with coach Bert Blyleven in the dugout, also was impressive against favored Puerto Rico, protecting a 1-0 lead until the eighth.

Big league sluggers Carlos Delgado and Alex Rios opened the inning with walks. After Ivan Rodriguez struck out, Mike Aviles walked to load the bases and Molina followed with a two-run double to left off Leon Boyd that put

Puerto Rico in front before a sold-out home crowd of 19,479 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

Alex Cora flied out, but Jesus Feliciano's RBI single made it 3-1. On the play, Molina was thrown out at the plate.

J.C. Romero and Fernando Cabrera combined for a perfect ninth, sending Puerto Rico to Miami for second-round action beginning Saturday.

"The only thing bad was the 10 men we left on base, but that is part of the game," Oquendo said.

The Netherlands will face the Dominican Republic again in an elimination game Tuesday night. The winner of that game will play Puerto Rico on Wednesday for first place in Group D. Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Ian Snell started for Puerto Rico, allowing one run and three hits in four innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Pedro Feliciano provided 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief. Romero also worked 1 1-3 innings for the win. □

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Report: Substances found on Clemens materials



Former baseball pitcher Roger Clemens watches the Houston Rockets play the Cleveland Cavaliers in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, in Houston.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities have found performance-enhancing substances on the materials Brian McNamee said he used to inject baseball pitcher Roger Clemens, The New York Times reported Tuesday. McNamee turned over the syringes, vials and gauze pads to federal investigators last year, after he told baseball investigator George Mitchell he injected the pitcher with steroids and human growth hormone.

The Washington Post reported

Feb. 6 that tests linked Clemens' DNA to blood in the syringes given to investigators by McNamee.

Clemens has said repeatedly that McNamee, his former personal trainer, injected him with B-12 and the painkiller lidocaine.

"I assumed, and I am not surprised, that the tests were positive for both DNA and for performance-enhancing drugs, because that's what Brian said all along, and there's not much doubt that Brian's been telling the truth," McNamee's lawyer, Richard Emery, told The Associated Press. "The confirmation of that fact, once again, just seems to me to be another significant step towards jail for Clemens."

A federal grand jury in Washington is investigating whether Clemens lied when he told a congressional committee last year that he didn't use illegal performance-enhancing substances. McNamee, testifying before the same committee, said he repeatedly injected Clemens with steroids and HGH.

Rusty Hardin, Clemens' lawyer, did not return a telephone call seeking comment. □


UEFA drops ESPN, picks Fox for Champs League deal

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — UEFA has dropped ESPN as its Champions League broadcast partner in Central and South America and awarded the rights to the Fox network for the next three years, the governing body of European football said Tuesday.

Fox Sports Latin America's pay channels will screen the Champions League and the Europa League — the rebranded UEFA Cup — for the 2009-2012 seasons.

UEFA said in a statement it wished "to thank ESPN for its contribution and commitment to both competitions in the region during recent seasons. They have been a highly valued partner... and have done a great job of broadcasting both competitions." What Fox paid for the broadcast rights, which does not cover Brazil, was not disclosed.

UEFA said it will later award a further package of free-to-air rights. □



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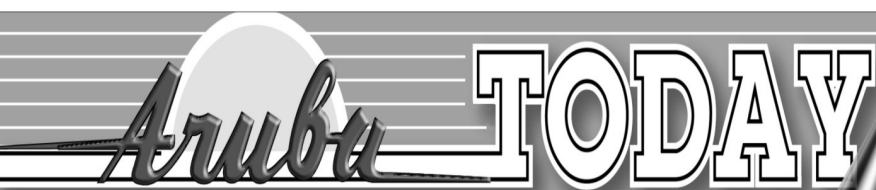
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Ecuador arranca campaña electoral para comicios abril

QUITO (Reuters) - Ocho binomios presidenciales y cientos de candidatos para otros cargos arrancaron el martes en Ecuador la campaña para los comicios de abril, en medio de denuncias de la oposición de ventajismo del mandatario Rafael Correa, quien buscará la reelección. Los ecuatorianos acudirán a las urnas el 26 de abril por cuarta ocasión en dos años para escoger a unas 5.900 dignidades con las nuevas reglas constitucionales que autoriza la reelección inmediata y refuerza los poderes al Ejecutivo. "Tenemos 45 días para reflexionar, para investigar, para enterarnos, para conocer, para decidir", dijo el presidente

del Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), Omar Simon, al declarar oficialmente el inicio de la campaña proselitista. Correa, quien asumió el cargo en enero del 2007, se enfrentará en la carrera a un magnate bananero, a un ex coronel derrocado y otros ex asambleístas y políticos promocionados por movimientos y partidos de la débil y dispersa oposición. Los últimos sondeos dan ventaja a Correa con un 48 por ciento de la intención del voto, lo que sería suficiente para ganar en la primera vuelta, según la firma Informe Confidencial. "Si se deteriora más la economía, el presidente podrá ir a segunda vuelta.

Si la economía se mantiene y la crisis es administrada por goteo, creo entrará cómodamente en la elección y ganará en primera vuelta", dijo Santiago Nieto, director de Informe Confidencial, en una entrevista televisada. El sondeo fue hecho a 800 personas en Quito y Guayaquil el 28 de febrero. Otras firmas han coincidido en señalar que Correa cuenta con un amplio respaldo en el inicio de la campaña. Para la oposición, la ventaja en la intención del voto de Correa, quien fundamenta su apoyo en decisiones populistas, se atribuye a la facilidad que tiene el Gobierno para promocionar sus proyectos mediante mensajes que obligatoriamente

deben transmitir canales y radios locales. El CNE suspendió el viernes la transmisión de dos programas del Gobierno argumentando que se realizaba campaña electoral, pero la disposición no fue acogida por las autoridades. La oposición amenazó con solicitar la intervención de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) para

regular los espacios de la campaña. Los candidatos, incluyendo el actual mandatario, pueden contratar espacios en los medios de comunicación y vallas exteriores para promocionar sus propuestas, pero no podrán exceder de 650.000 dólares en el caso de los binomios presidenciales y 390.000 dólares para asambleístas nacionales. □

Ecuador congela relaciones con Colombia

QUITO (AP) - Las relaciones diplomáticas de Ecuador con Colombia se encuentran en "un punto congelado" y tal situación no cambiará en el corto plazo, dijo el canciller Fander Falconí. Reconoció que "no es saludable" que las relaciones estén por más de un año rotas, aunque Ecuador aún mantiene "relaciones profundas con el pueblo colombiano a través del comercio, inversión ... no es un clima propicio para ninguno de los países tener una ruptura, sin embargo, las decisiones del Ecuador están plenamente justificadas". En declaraciones

exclusivas al diario El Comercio, expresó que "las relaciones en este momento están en un punto congelado y no vemos en el corto plazo que eso cambie". Ecuador rompió relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia el 3 de marzo del 2008, dos días después que efectivos militares de ese país atacaran sin autorización territorio ecuatoriano, donde subrepticamente se había instalado un campamento de la guerrilla Colombia. En esa acción murió el jefe guerrillero Raúl Reyes y otras 24 personas. □

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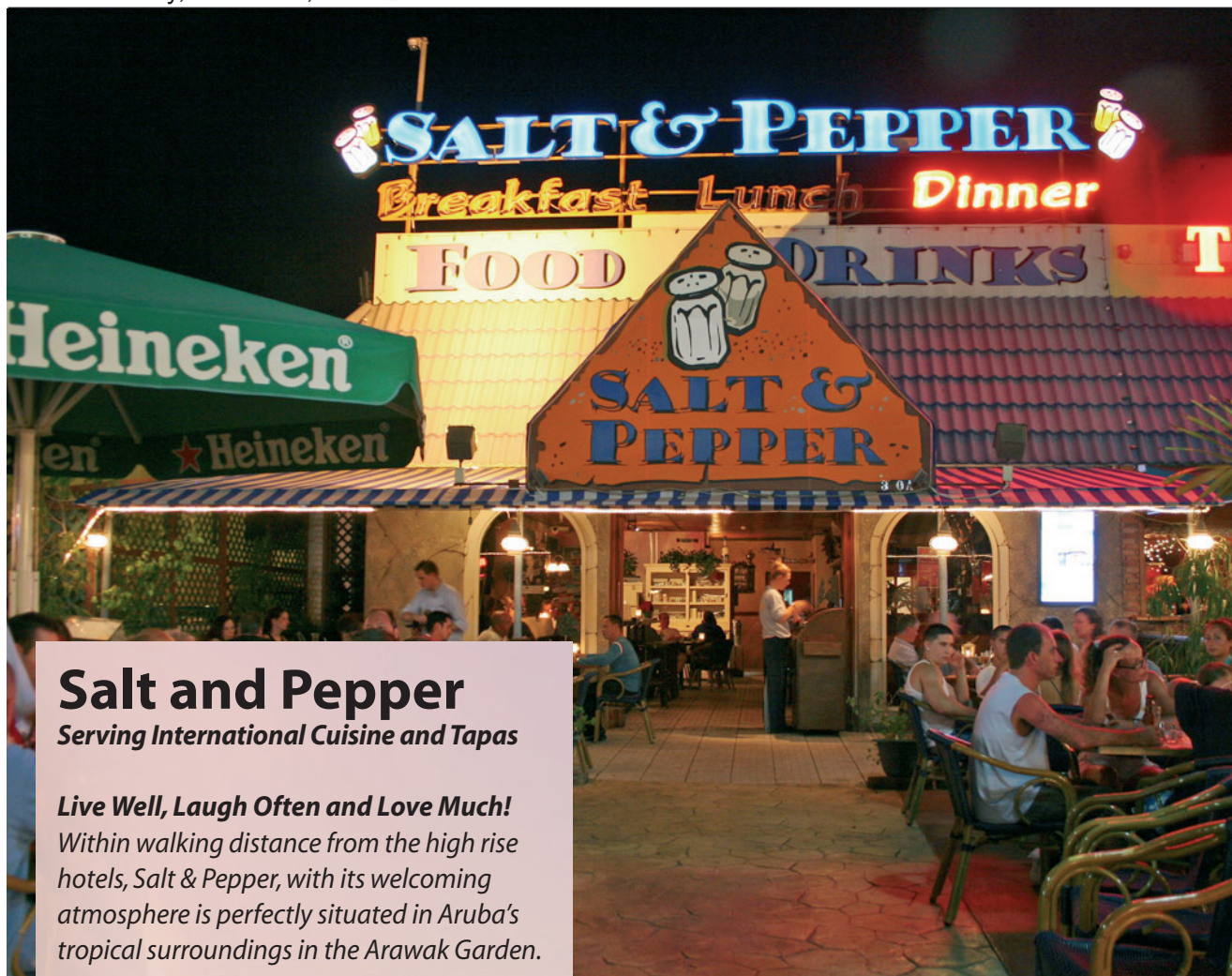
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